DOCTOR DOOM

"Christopher Cantwell finds new, enjoyable depths to explore in his grounded Doctor Doom comic."

— Henchman-4-Hire

CANTWELL
LARROCA
GURU-eFX

BEDFORD FALLS

MARVEL

Doctor Doom
Bedford Falls

Previously

Born to a poor nomad and an ill-fated witch, Victor Von Doom used his talent for combining sorcery and technology to take over the European country of Latveria. Over the years, Doom has wielded his power for great good and great evil.

Doom publicly condemned the dangerous flaws of an international program called the Antlion Project that was developed to solve climate change. So when Latverian missiles struck the facility, killing nearly 3,000 people, he became the prime suspect.

Doom surrendered, hoping to prove his innocence — but mysterious visions of a peaceful future with a loving family and a woman named Fruzsina (and the time-traveler Kang's confirmation that such a future was possible) drove him to escape.

Doom tracked down Fruzsina, a Latverian expat who scorned him for past injustices against her family. Blue Marvel, Silver Sable and Victorious interrupted the meeting, all pursuing Doom for different reasons. When Doom became convinced that Symkaria framed him for the Antlion attack to usurp his rule of Latveria, he flew into a rage.

Doom must now return to his homeland if he wishes to reclaim it, and his only remaining ally is the unpredictable Kang the Conqueror, who seems to be chronologically entangled with Doom for reasons unknown...

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Doctor Doom

Bedford Falls

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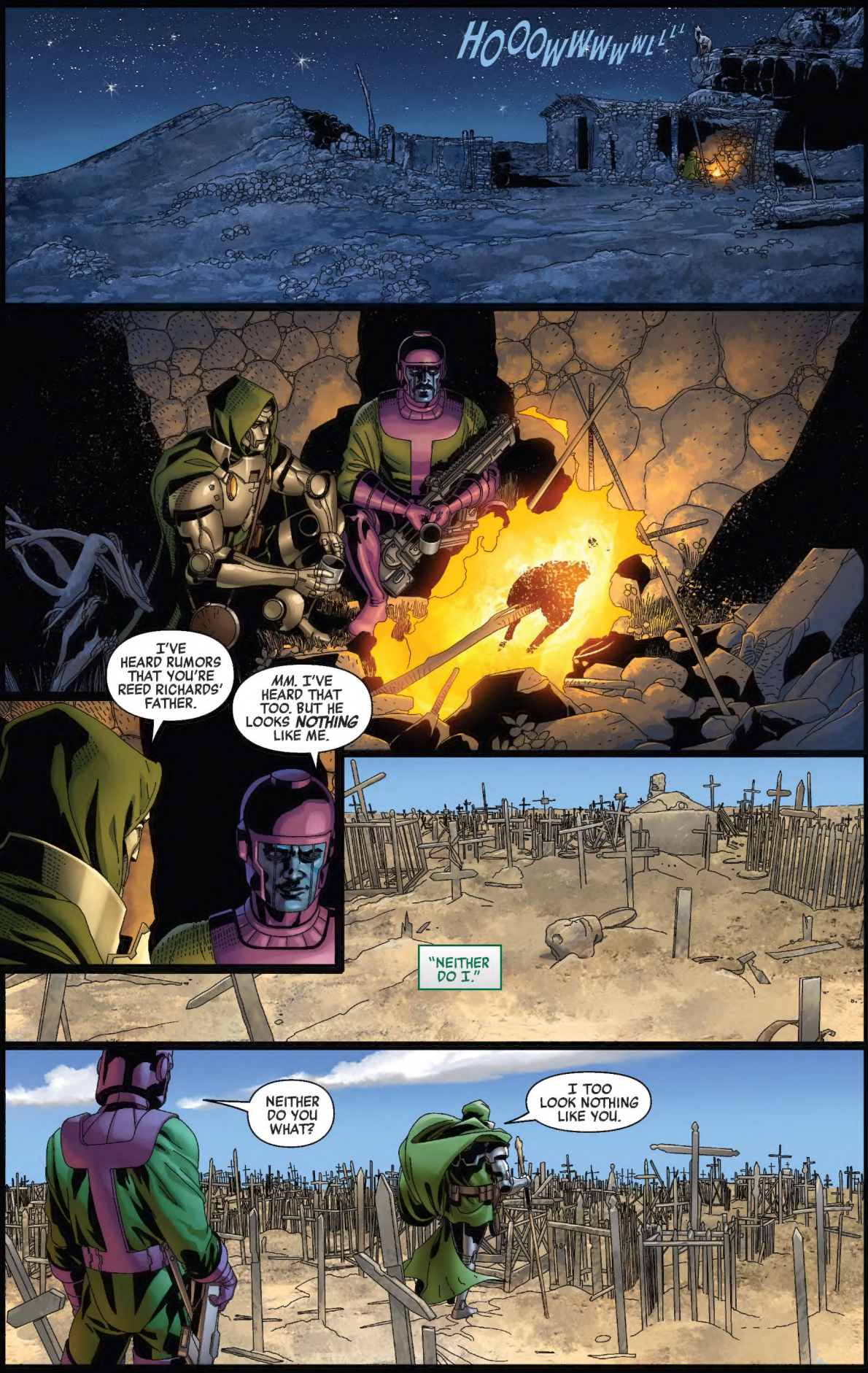
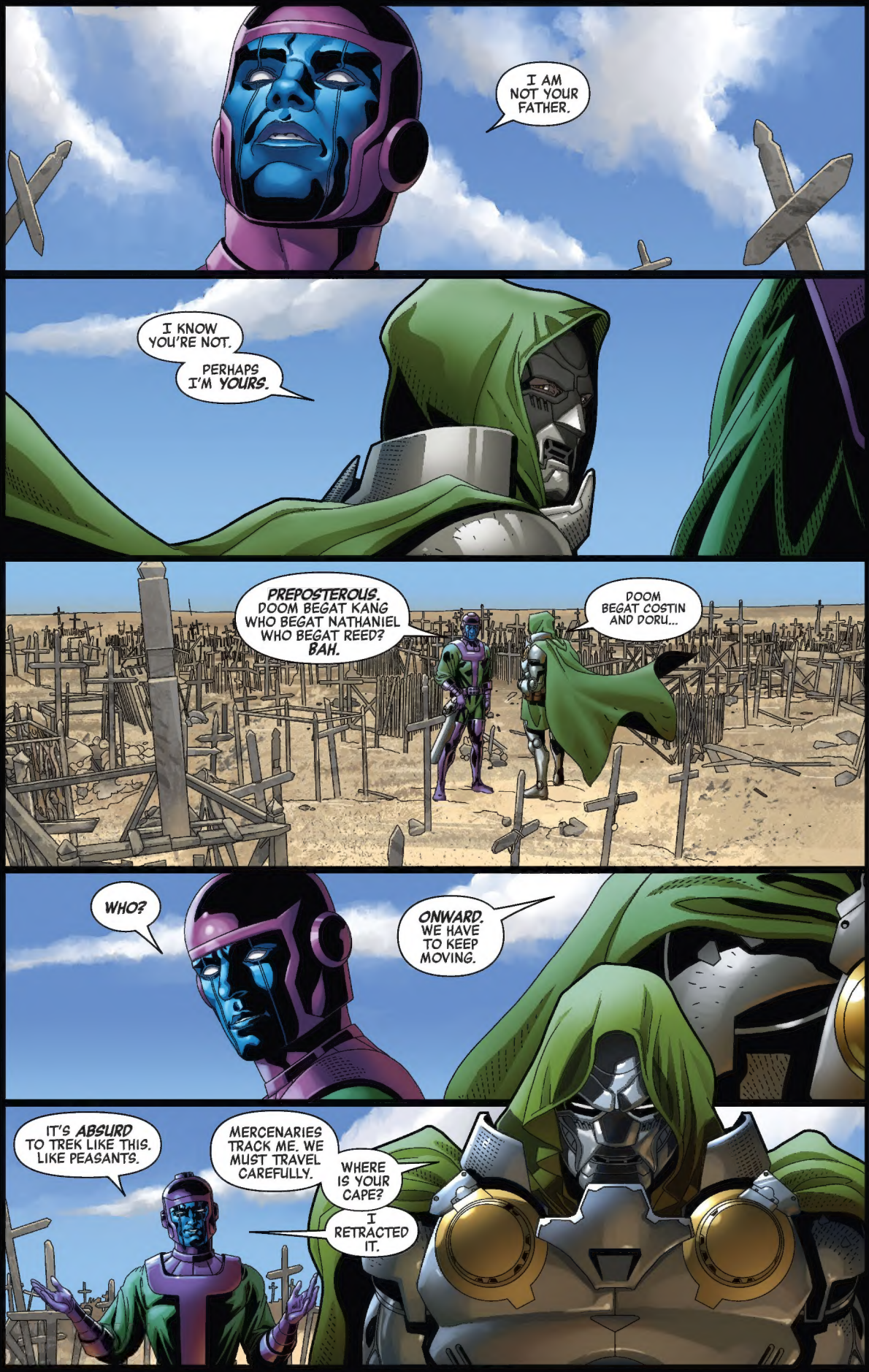
DOOM
6
Road to Latveria

TEXAS,
48 MILES NORTHWEST OF TERLINGUA.
"ARE WE GOING TO TALK ABOUT IT?"
TALK ABOUT WHAT?
YOU KNOW WHAT.
I DON'T, KANG. ENLIGHTEN ME.
OUR BLOOD RELATION.
I DON'T SEE THE POINT.
TO CURE BOREDOM, WE'RE STILL TWO DAYS FROM OUR WAYPOINT.
"OUR"? I'M WAITING FOR YOU TO BLINK OUT OF EXISTENCE AT ANY MOMENT.

"BUT I'VE BEEN HERE FOR OVER 136 HOURS NOW. A NEW RECORD."
"IT MUST BE THE ANTLION. WITH AN EXPANDING BLACK HOLE THAT CLOSE TO US, REALITY AS WE KNOW IT IS BEGINNING TO SHIFT."
CLANGK
THE BLACK HOLE MUST BE DESTROYED IF EARTH IS TO SURVIVE. AND YET, HOW DOES ONE DESTROY THE INVINCIBLE?
AH. NOW *THIS* IS A SUBJECT WITH WHICH TO CURE BOREDOM.

GREETINGS, GENTS...NAME'S TOM... MIGHTN'T I SHARE THIS CAR WITH YOU FOR THE EVENING?
1515
1515
NYYYAPOOOOO


HOOOWWWWWLLL
I'VE HEARD RUMORS THAT YOU'RE REED RICHARDS' FATHER.
MM. I'VE HEARD THAT TOO. BUT HE LOOKS NOTHING LIKE ME.
"NEITHER DO I."
NEITHER DO YOU WHAT?
I TOO LOOK NOTHING LIKE YOU.


I AM NOT YOUR FATHER.
I KNOW YOU'RE NOT.
PERHAPS I'M YOURS.
PREPOSTEROUS. DOOM BEGAT KANG WHO BEGAT NATHANIEL WHO BEGAT REED? BAH.
DOOM BEGAT COSTIN AND DORU...
WHO?
ONWARD. WE HAVE TO KEEP MOVING.
IT'S ABSURD TO TREK LIKE THIS. LIKE PEASANTS.
MERCENARIES TRACK ME. WE MUST TRAVEL CAREFULLY.
WHERE IS YOUR CAPE?
I RETRACTED IT.

HOLD ON! WHAT'VE WE GOT HERE?
AIN'T NEVER SEEN MORE COLORIFIC-LOOKIN' CHUCKLE DUCKS IN ALL MY LIFE!
WHAT'S YOUR NAME, FANCY CLEOPATRA?
HOW 'BOUT YOU, STEELY DAN? WHAT'S BEHIND YOUR IRON CURTAIN?

PEWPEW
PEWPEW
"TRAVEL CAREFULLY."

WHY DO YOU EVEN BOTHER TO HELP ME?
I'VE EXPLAINED. I WILL CONQUER THE WORLD YOU SAVE.
I WILL SAVE NO WORLD.
NO. I'VE SEEN THE UTOPIA YOU CREATE.
YOU'VE ALSO SEEN A FUTURE WHERE EARTH IS OVERRUN BY A COHORT OF MECHANIZED DINOSAURS.
TRUE. STILL... WHEREVER DOCTOR DOOM STANDS, THERE EXISTS A LUST FOR POWER, ONE I CAN USE TO MY ADVANTAGE.
I THINK YOU'RE JUST LONELY.
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S LONELY.
A MORONIC ASSUMPTION, AS I AM A MISANTHROPE.
A MISANTHROPE WHO WHIMPERS WITH HOMESICKNESS.

BETTER THAN A FETID FOOL WITH NO FOOTING IN TIME AND SPACE.
INSIDE THAT ARMOR IS A TOADFISH ROMANTIC WITH A CORKBOARD SPINE AND A SKULL DEVOID OF ANYTHING SAVE...
...BURNT... COTTON CANDY.
HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA!
I WILL DESTROY YOU, KANG.
I WILL DESTROY YOU FIRST, VICTOR.

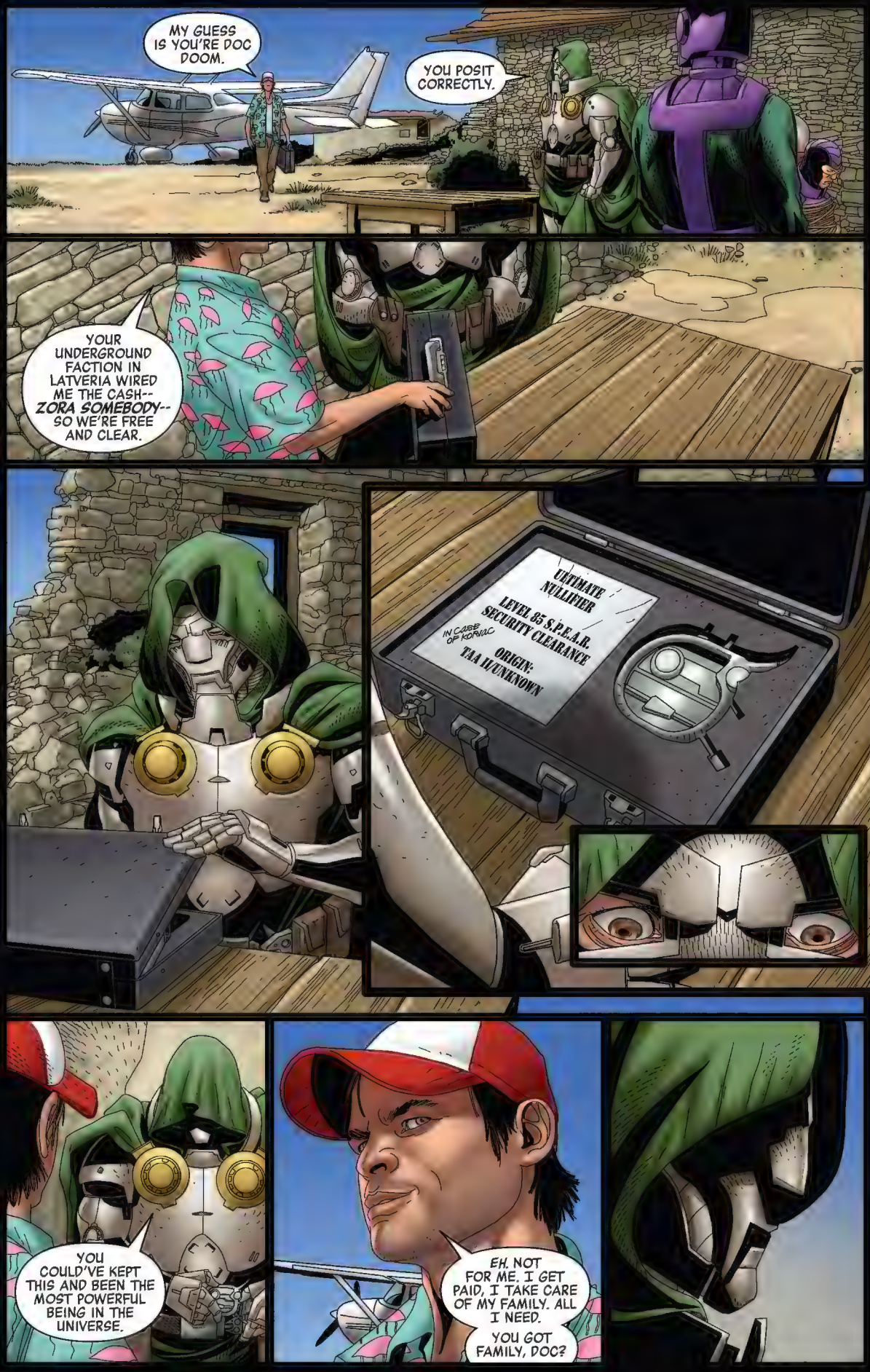
TERLINGUA, TEXAS.
ENOUGH OF THIS. TELL ME WHAT WE SEEK.
I BELIEVE THE TERM IS "ACE IN THE HOLE."
AH, SO YOU DO NOT HAVE ENOUGH FAITH IN YOUR OWN ABILITIES.
I WILL RECLAIM LATVERIA ON MY OWN. BUT AFTER...
...I MUST NEVER BE VULNERABLE AGAIN.
AND WHAT IF THE BLACK HOLE ABOVE RENDERS IT ALL MOOT?
I WILL CONQUER THAT AS WELL.
THEN I, YOU.
YOU'D BE DEAD BEFORE THEN.
WHICH BRINGS ME TO A FORMER QUESTION: HOW DOES ONE DESTROY THE INVINCIBLE?

PERHAPS AN ANTIMATTER BOMB COULD CANCEL OUT THE ANTLION'S MATTER.
ANTIMATTER IS MASS. MASS PLUS MASS IS MASS. THE BLACK HOLE WILL ONLY GROW.
NEGATIVE ENERGY. ONE COULD DRAIN ANTIPARTICLES FROM THE HOLE AND IT WOULD DISSIPATE.
OVER SEVERAL BILLION YEARS.
BUT WHAT IF YOU COULD GENERATE SEVERAL BILLION YEARS' WORTH OF NEGATIVE ENERGY IN AN INSTANT?
WHOOO

VICTOR VON DOOM. PLEASURE. SYMKARIA'S VERY UNHAPPY WITH YOU.
PEM
PUM
PEW
PNK
PAK
PALADIN! I SEE SYMKARIA HAS BEEN REDUCED TO ONE BARGAIN BASEMENT MERCENARY!
KWAACHOOM
YOU THINK I CAME ALONE?

I SEE ALL DOOM YOU CANNOT HIDE DOOM I SEE ALL
KER-KOSHEEE
THE EYE OF THE WATCHER SHOWS ME YOU HIDING IN TEXAS DOOM I SEE ALL
EVEN THOUGH HE'S GONE INSANE, ORB'S A GOOD BLOODHOUND. ALTHOUGH IMAGINE SHARING A FOURTEEN-HOUR FLIGHT WITH HIM FROM BUCHAREST.
I SEE ALL DOOM
WHOOMF

KSTCHEOOW
KSTCHEOOW
ARE THEY DEAD?
NO. THIS IS MERELY AN ULTRA-DIODE WEAPON. IT WEAKENS SENTIENT BEINGS AND SAPS THEIR WILLS.
AH MAN, MY LIFE IS SUCH A WASTE. WHAT AM I DOING HERE...?
I SEE ALL AND ALL IS NOT GOOD I SHOULD STOP TRYING
MORE INTRUDERS?
MY ACE IN THE HOLE.


MY GUESS IS YOU'RE DOC DOOM.
YOU POSIT CORRECTLY.
YOUR UNDERGROUND FACTION IN LATVERIA WIRED ME THE CASH-- ZORA SOMEBODY-- SO WE'RE FREE AND CLEAR.
ULTIMATE NULLIFIER
LEVEL 05 S.P.E.A.R. SECURITY CLEARANCE
IN CASE OF KORVAC
ORIGIN: TAA II/UNKNOWN
YOU COULD'VE KEPT THIS AND BEEN THE MOST POWERFUL BEING IN THE UNIVERSE.
EH. NOT FOR ME. I GET PAID, I TAKE CARE OF MY FAMILY. ALL I NEED.
YOU GOT FAMILY, DOC?

TWO SONS. COSTIN AND DORU. COSTIN IS 9, BUT I CAN ALREADY SEE GLIMMERS OF THE MAN HE'LL BECOME.
HE WAS A COLICKY CHILD. FRETFUL. SOMETIMES HIS ANXIETY GETS THE BETTER OF HIM. BUT HIS MIND IS SHARP. AND THERE IS WARMTH IN HIS HEART.
DORU, ON THE OTHER HAND... RAMBUNCTIOUS. ONLY 7, BUT FEARLESS. QUITE REMARKABLE. HE NEVER TIRES. BUT HIS SOUL IS... TRANQUIL.
THEY SOUND LIKE GREAT KIDS.
YES...
I'LL SEE YA AROUND, DOC. YOUR RIDES ARE JUST AT THE END OF TOWN.
WE RIDE TO CHIHUAHUA AND WILL GAIN TRANSPORT TO LATVERIA THERE.
I'M GOING HOME.

APOLOGIES, VICTOR, BUT I REQUIRE THE NULLIFIER.
KSTCHEOOW
I'M ALMOST CERTAIN THE ULTRA-DIODE IS REVERSIBLE, AND YOUR WILL TO LIVE WILL EVENTUALLY RETURN.
...EVERYTHING... SO MUCH PAIN...
NGUUUHH...
YOUR WILL IS UNCHECKED. HA. HOW DO YOU...DESTROY SOMETHING...THAT'S INVINCIBLE...
I WILL MISS OUR FAMILIARITY... PERHAPS, THROUGH SOME TWIST OF TIME...WE ARE BROTHERS...
GOODBYE, KANG.

"Black riders came from the sea.
There was clang and clang of
spear and shield,
And clash and clash of hoof and heel,
Wild shouts and the wave of hair
In the rush upon the wind:
Thus the ride of sin."

-Stephen Crane, 1895

CHIHUAHUA, MEXICO.
"RICHARDS. IT'S ME."
YOUR BLACK HOLE SOLUTION IS SIMPLE.
MY GUESS IS IT'S STANDING RIGHT NEXT TO YOU.
BRASHEAR. THE BLUE MARVEL. SEND HIM INSIDE THE ANTLION.
AN ANTIMATTER COLLISION WILL JUST CREATE MORE MASS--
LISTEN, YOU IDIOT.
SEND HIM PAST THE EVENT HORIZON. HE CAN GENERATE A MASSIVE AMOUNT OF NEGATIVE ENERGY TO DISSIPATE THE HOLE.
I KNOW HE'S SURVIVED A NUCLEAR EXPLOSION, SO THERE'S A CHANCE THE SINGULARITY WON'T INCINERATE HIM.
FARE THEE WELL, REPROBATE.
FARE THEE WELL.

Mike Mayhew

6 Spider-Woman Variant

7
Oath of Fealty

NORTHERN LATVERIA.
BREATHE OUT AS YOU PULL THE TRIGGER.
KA-CHOF
IT WAS ALWAYS APPARENT TO ME THAT YOU WERE CAPABLE OF MORE THAN CLERICAL DUTY, PETRA.
SOMEONE APPROACHES FROM THE SOUTH.

VON DOOM LOYALISTS.

BORIS KARELA, DOOM'S LONGEST-SERVING ADVISOR.

PETRA KARELA, DOOM'S CHIEF OF STAFF.

LARIN, THE LAST SURVIVING MONK OF DOOM.

GENERAL VASILY MAKEYEV, DOOM'S SECRETARY OF DEFENSE.

KRISTOFF VERNARD, DOOM'S ADOPTED WARD, LONG IN LINE FOR THE LATVERIAN THRONE.

ZORA VUKOVIC, A.K.A. VICTORIOUS, DOOM'S COSMIC HERALD AND CHAMPION OF LATVERIA.

SMIRKOFF

SMIRKOFF

1846

VODKA

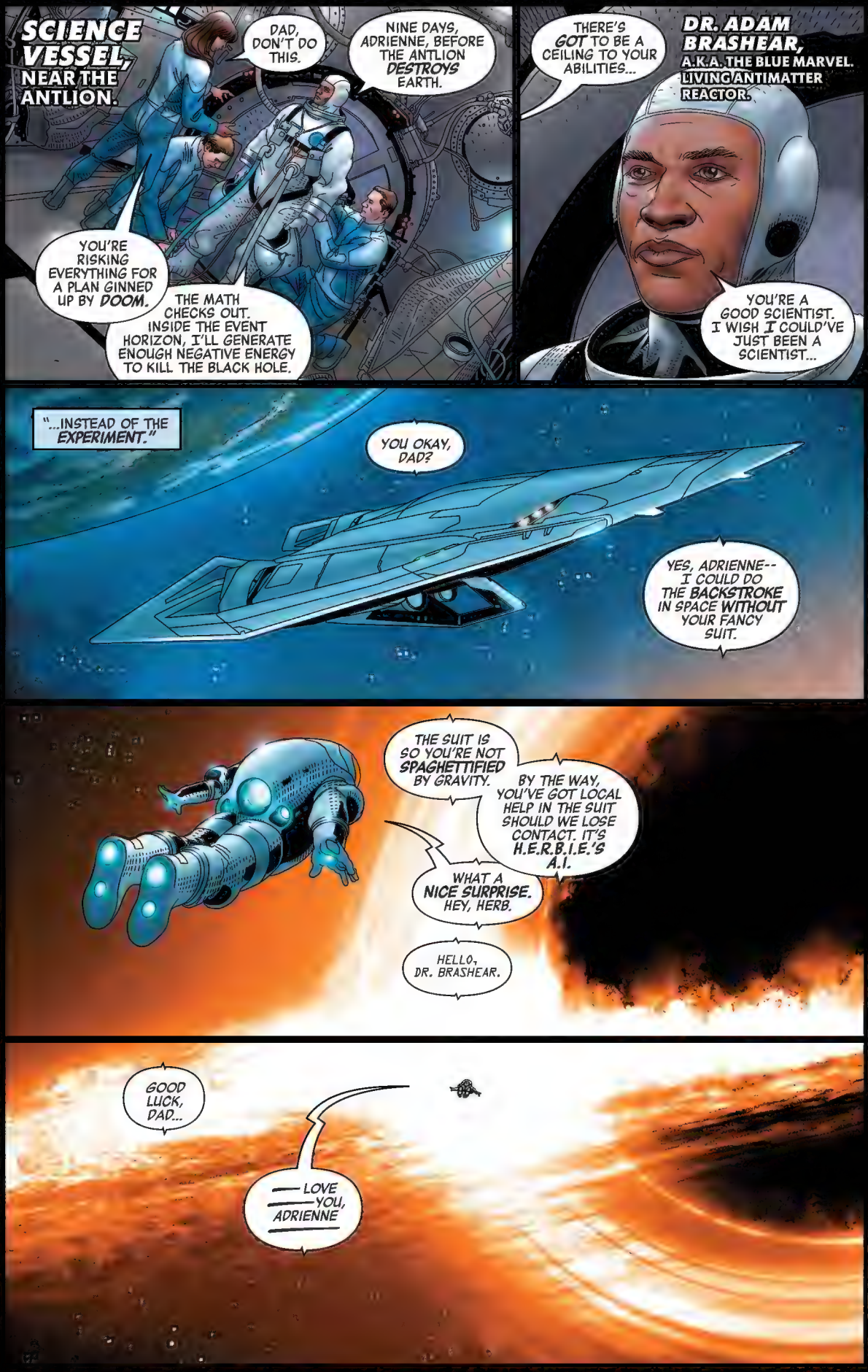
FATHER, I'M EAGER TO PRACTICE MY MARKSMANSHIP ON A *REAL* TARGET.

WAIT...

WHO GOES THERE?

LET THEM *TRY* TO APPROACH UNANNOUNCED AND *SEE* WHAT HAPPENS.

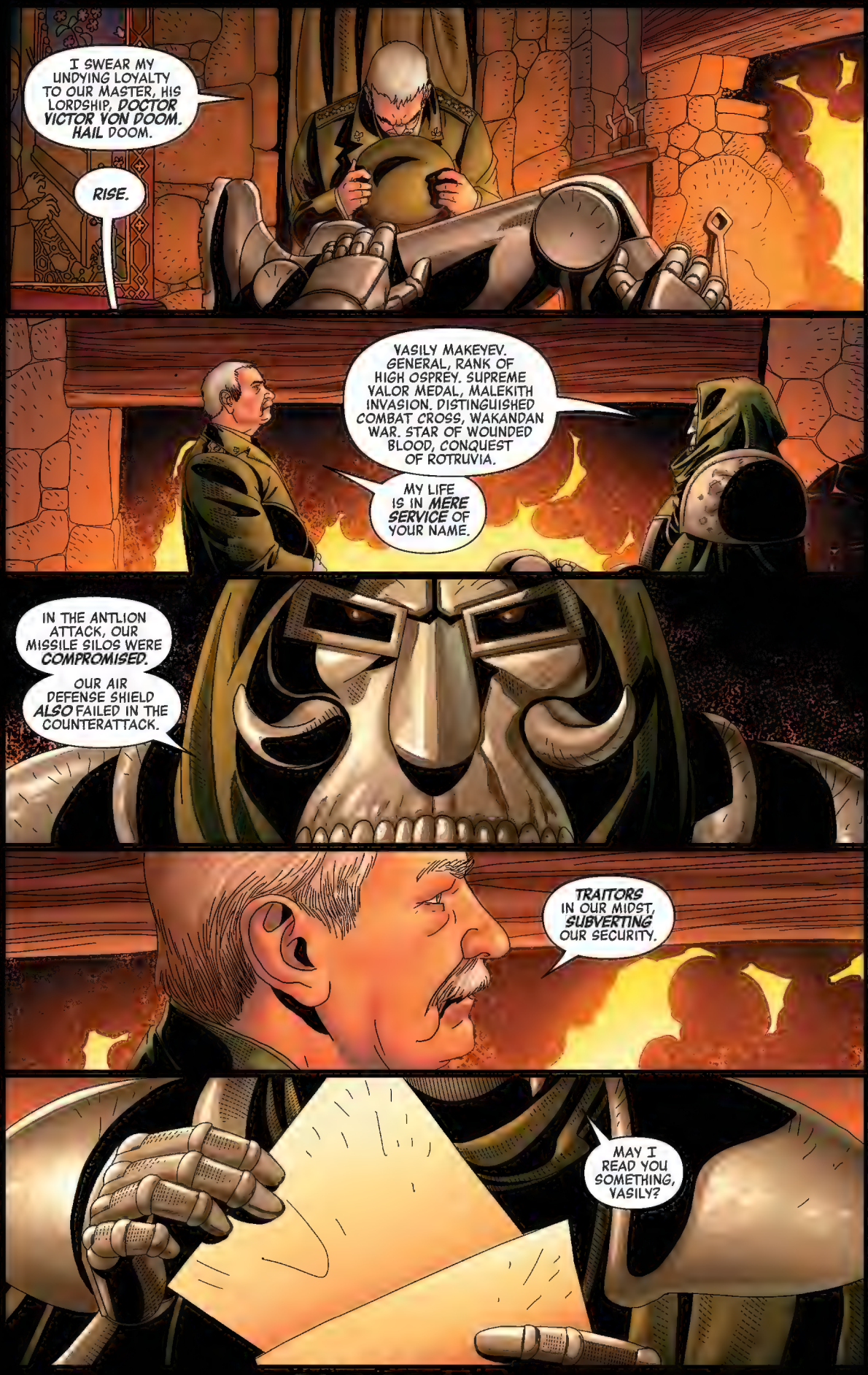
I HAVE RETURNED.
THIS IS MY COMRADE NOVAK. SEE THAT HE'S FED.
I WILL REST NOW. PREPARE MY WINTER CLOAKS AND TRIBUNAL MASK. THERE IS TO BE A RECKONING.


SCIENCE VESSEL, NEAR THE ANTLION.
DAD, DON'T DO THIS.
NINE DAYS, ADRIENNE, BEFORE THE ANTLION DESTROYS EARTH.
YOU'RE RISKING EVERYTHING FOR A PLAN GINNED UP BY DOOM.
THE MATH CHECKS OUT. INSIDE THE EVENT HORIZON, I'LL GENERATE ENOUGH NEGATIVE ENERGY TO KILL THE BLACK HOLE.
THERE'S GOT TO BE A CEILING TO YOUR ABILITIES...
DR. ADAM BRASHEAR, A.K.A. THE BLUE MARVEL. LIVING ANTIMATTER REACTOR.
YOU'RE A GOOD SCIENTIST. I WISH I COULD'VE JUST BEEN A SCIENTIST...
"...INSTEAD OF THE EXPERIMENT."
YOU OKAY, DAD?
YES, ADRIENNE-- I COULD DO THE BACKSTROKE IN SPACE WITHOUT YOUR FANCY SUIT.
THE SUIT IS SO YOU'RE NOT SPAGHETTIFIED BY GRAVITY.
BY THE WAY, YOU'VE GOT LOCAL HELP IN THE SUIT SHOULD WE LOSE CONTACT. IT'S H.E.R.B.I.E.'S A.I.
WHAT A NICE SURPRISE. HEY, HERB.
HELLO, DR. BRASHEAR.
GOOD LUCK, DAD...
I LOVE YOU, ADRIENNE

A FEW WORDS.
THE BEDROCK OF TRUST UPON WHICH I RULED HAS BEEN SHATTERED BY THIS COUP. ALL OF MY SUBJECTS ARE SUSPECTED CONSPIRATORS.
YOU SIX COMPRISE MY INNERMOST CIRCLE. BUT EVEN YOU MUST BE TESTED AND YOUR LOYALTIES QUESTIONED.
EACH OF YOU WILL SWEAR AN OATH OF FEALTY TO ME.
I WILL ACCEPT THIS OATH.
OR I WON'T.
HE WEARS THE NULLIFIER.
WHY NOT USE IT NOW?
HE WANTS TO KNOW WHO HIS FRIENDS ARE.

ENTER.
PETRA. KNEEL.
I SWEAR MY UNDYING LOYALTY TO OUR MASTER, HIS LORDSHIP, DOCTOR VICTOR VON DOOM. HAIL DOOM.
RISE.
YOUR SICK FATHER IS HERE IN THE SNOW AND YOU WISH TO FIGHT IN MY NAME.
IT WOULD BE AN HONOR, LORD.
PETRA... AM I MORE DEMON THAN MAN?
I... I...
YOU MAY GO.

I SWEAR MY UNDYING LOYALTY TO OUR MASTER, HIS LORDSHIP, DOCTOR VICTOR VON DOOM. HAIL DOOM.
WHY DO YOU SERVE ME, LARIN?
BECAUSE YOU'RE GOD.
I'VE HEARD THAT BEFORE... YOU BELIEVE IT?
I SPEAK ONLY WHAT I BELIEVE.
DOES A GOD EXECUTE YOUR BROTHER MONKS?
OF COURSE.
WHY?
BECAUSE YOU KILLED THEM.
AND YET YOU LIVE.
TO WHOM?
TO SPREAD YOUR WORD.
YOU.
AND WHAT IS MY WORD, LARIN?
དཔའ་ཞོ*
*TIBETAN FOR "HERO."

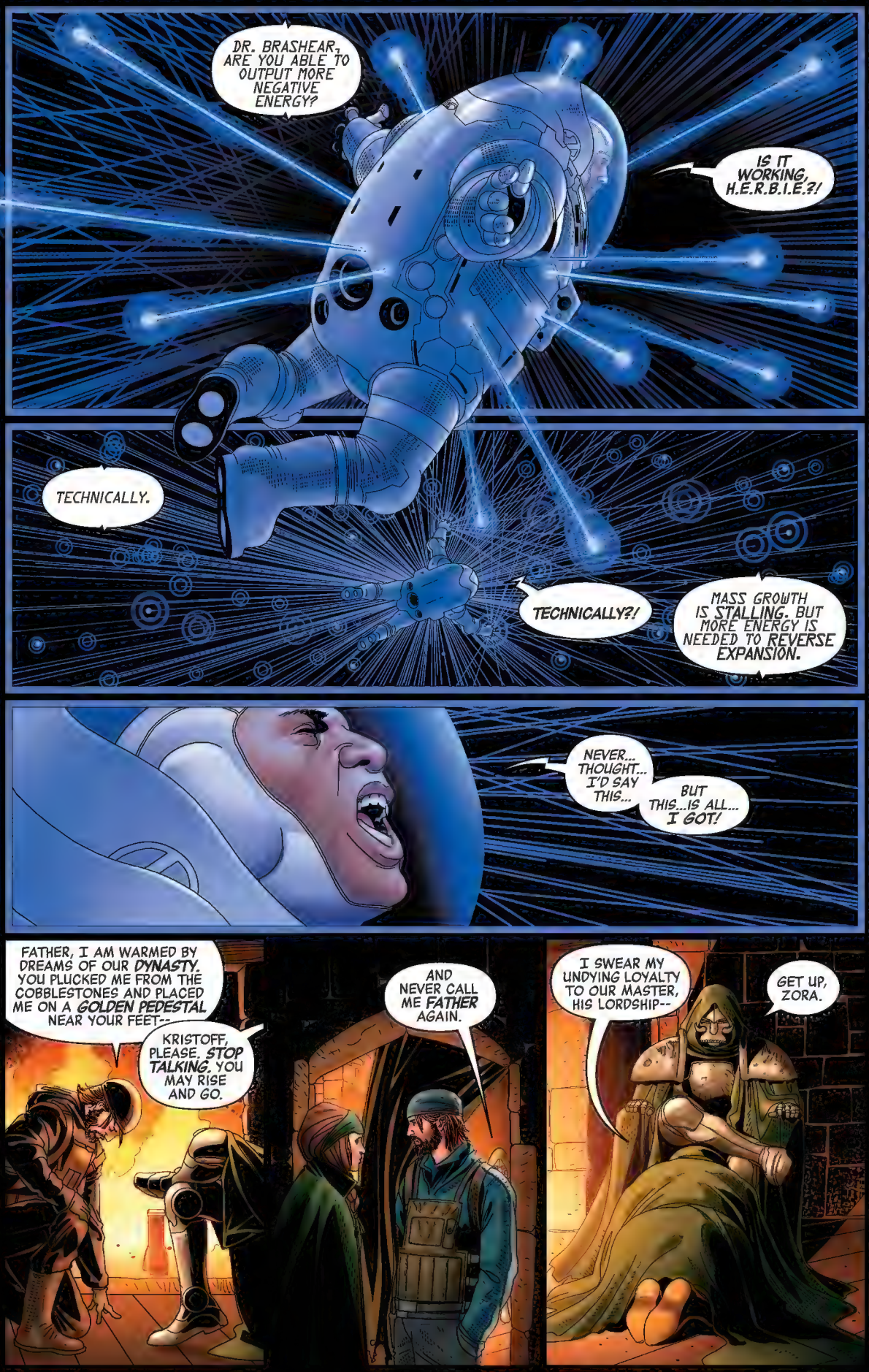

I SWEAR MY UNDYING LOYALTY TO OUR MASTER, HIS LORDSHIP, DOCTOR VICTOR VON DOOM. HAIL DOOM.
RISE.
VASILY MAKEYEV. GENERAL, RANK OF HIGH OSPREY. SUPREME VALOR MEDAL, MALEKITH INVASION. DISTINGUISHED COMBAT CROSS, WAKANDAN WAR. STAR OF WOUNDED BLOOD, CONQUEST OF ROTRUVIA.
MY LIFE IS IN MERE SERVICE OF YOUR NAME.
IN THE ANTLION ATTACK, OUR MISSILE SILOS WERE COMPROMISED.
OUR AIR DEFENSE SHIELD ALSO FAILED IN THE COUNTERATTACK.
TRAITORS IN OUR MIDST, SUBVERTING OUR SECURITY.
MAY I READ YOU SOMETHING, VASILY?

"DEAREST KATARINA. I DREAM OF NO FENCE BETWEEN OUR HOMES WHERE WE COULD BE TOGETHER AGAIN SOON, WITH EASE. I LONG FOR A SIMPLE CHAIR, A PORCH AND YOU, MY LOVE..."
AND SO ON, AND SO ON, IT GOES ON LIKE THIS, QUITE POETIC...
"I HAVE LEFT THE DOOR OPEN. ALL YOU MUST DO IS STEP INSIDE SO THAT WE MAY EMBRACE THROUGH THE END OF OUR DAYS. LOVE, VASILY."
A SILLY LOVE LETTER, LORD...
A LOVE LETTER INTERCEPTED BY MY SPIES IN ANIANA AFTER THE ANTLION ATTACK.
A LOVE LETTER WRITTEN TO COUNTESS KATARINA KARKOV, FORMER MONARCH OF SYMKARIA.
I'LL GIVE YOU A TWO-MINUTE RUNNING START.

POK
FEED HIM TO MY BEAR.

"AM I LOVED, BORIS?"
YOU ARE LOVED BY COUNTLESS.
LOVED BECAUSE OF FEAR. BECAUSE YOU MUST. THIS IS NOT LOVE.
WE SURVIVE IN THE WILD FOR YOU. WE'RE YOUR FAMILY.
YOU'RE A COUNSELOR. YOUR DAUGHTER AN ASSISTANT. LARIN A WORSHIPPER. KRISTOFF AN ORPHAN WARD. ZORA A HERALD, A SOLDIER. WHAT FAMILY?
WHAT OF THIS WOMAN, AMARA PERERA? SHE WAS CARRYING YOUR CHILD*...
*AS REVEALED IN INVINCIBLE IRON MAN #599. --TOM
AMARA'S CHILD...DID NOT SURVIVE TO TERM...
VICTOR. DO YOU LOVE YOURSELF?
I'M THE LIVING SALVATION OF THE HUMAN RACE.
BUT IS THERE LOVE IN THAT SELF-ADULATION?

YOU FORGOT TO KNEEL.
VICTOR... I'M DYING AND CANNOT--
KNEEL.
I ACCEPT YOUR OATH OF FEALTY.


DR. BRASHEAR, ARE YOU ABLE TO OUTPUT MORE NEGATIVE ENERGY?
IS IT WORKING, H.E.R.B.I.E.?!
TECHNICALLY.
TECHNICALLY?!
MASS GROWTH IS STALLING. BUT MORE ENERGY IS NEEDED TO REVERSE EXPANSION.
NEVER... THOUGHT... I'D SAY THIS...
BUT THIS...IS ALL... I GOT!
FATHER, I AM WARMED BY DREAMS OF OUR DYNASTY. YOU PLUCKED ME FROM THE COBBLESTONES AND PLACED ME ON A GOLDEN PEDESTAL NEAR YOUR FEET--
KRISTOFF, PLEASE. STOP TALKING. YOU MAY RISE AND GO.
AND NEVER CALL ME FATHER AGAIN.
I SWEAR MY UNDYING LOYALTY TO OUR MASTER, HIS LORDSHIP--
GET UP, ZORA.

SPEAK FREELY.
VERY WELL... I AM NOT A SLAVE.
MY PARENTS WERE MEMBERS OF DOOM'S CHILDREN. THEY DIED BELIEVING IN SOMETHING. BELIEVING IN YOU. I'VE LED RESISTANCE FORCES IN YOUR NAME MANY TIMES AND WILL AGAIN--ALWAYS--WHEN NEEDED.
BUT I AM NOT A SLAVE.
THE ULTIMATE NULLIFIER REQUIRES A FOCUSED MIND TO BE USED CORRECTLY, ELSE IT DESTROYS THE USER. MY MIND HAS NOT BEEN VERY... FOCUSED...AS OF LATE.
I'M ENTRUSTING YOU WITH THIS UNTIL I RETURN.

HOURS LATER.
AH, DIMITRI FORTUNOV.
WHAT'S WRONG?
CAN'T SLEEP?

RULER OF LATVERIA. AN IMPRESSIVE TITLE.
YOU MUST CARRY IT WITH DIGNITY.
STAND UP STRAIGHT. YOU'RE KING AFTER ALL.
SNAP
AND HOLD YOUR HEAD HIGH. HE WHO REIGNS LOOKS DOWN ON THOSE WHO DON'T.
BUT SOMETHING'S MISSING. YES. A TRUE LEADER OF LATVERIA MUST HAVE...
...THIS.

HERE. USE THIS. IT WAS MY FATHER'S.
MY FATHER. CHASED BY YOUR FAMILY INTO FROZEN FIELDS, WHERE HE DIED. CLUTCHING ME IN HIS ARMS.
A LATVERIAN RULER MUST CAUSE PAIN...AND BEAR PAIN.
DO IT.
KEEP CUTTING.
GGGRRRR
YYYEUUUUA
DYEEAAAH
HYUUHHH!
THE RULER OF LATVERIA MUST BE A GOD.

A GOD MUST SOAR THROUGH THE HEAVENS.
CAN YOU FLY, DIMITRI?
NNNOOOOO!
ALAS, A MERE MORTAL. PITY.
FATHER?
WE'RE FIT TO BE RULERS OF LATVERIA, AREN'T WE?
WE MADE SURE. LOOK AT US...
NOW WE'VE TRULY BEEN MADE IN YOUR IMAGE...
NO... NO, NO, NO, NO...

YOU HAVE STABILIZED THE ANTLION. EXPANSION HAS CEASED.
BUT IT'S NOT GOING AWAY ANYTIME SOON.
NO. NOT WITHOUT MORE NEGATIVE ENERGY.
I THINK I'M TAPPED OUT...
THERE IS A COMPLICATION.
OF COURSE THERE IS.
WE ARE NOT ABLE TO PASS BACK ACROSS THE EVENT HORIZON.
SO WE'RE STUCK HERE.
HOLD ON... WHO THE HELL IS THAT?
STOP!
I MEAN NO HARM! I'M ON A MISSION AT THE BEHEST OF WORLD MINISTER DOOM.
I AM DR. OTTO OCTAVIUS.
I'M HERE TO SEAL THIS WORMHOLE.

8
Peace in the Valley

After the vision of my disfigured children, I collapsed. I don't know how long I lay on the parapet--minutes, maybe hours.
I'd felt free from the stranglehold of my "better future." But then I saw two boys proudly showing me their slashed countenances, ruined in the image of their father's awful face.
The pain in my heart... I so wanted them to be mine...and yet not the sons of some monster.
Victorious found me. She moved me into my chambers and cared for me. She returned to me the Ultimate Nullifier, believing it was a test I'd put her through.
It was not a test. It was trust. I feel Victorious may be my only true ally.
This night was my darkest in a long time.

Still recovering from the battles within my soul, I again assumed command of Latveria. No one sensed my rattled mind, and I had the Nullifier: so the world greatly feared me.

But enough of my inner trials. Let me regale you with a note about Reed Richards' bravery. So often I hear of this brilliant hero without flaw.

These endless praising melodies espoused by sycophants leave me bilious.

Richards is devoid of modesty, merely capable of showing mock humility that only the truly intolerable can demonstrate.

Case in point: Even though they still considered me a mass murderer, world leaders had the gall to ask for my help with the black hole threatening Earth.

But Richards--Richards--despite being the one who created the technology that caused this disaster, again failed to show his face.

Coward. He couldn't even look me in the eye and admit his failure.

Still I agreed to solve their nuisance. But with one condition.

That I first be allowed to conquer Symkaria and take it for my own.

I have to admit I love war. Especially when I'm winning.

The Symkarian invasion was over quickly. My blood became charged with verve as we stamped out every conspiratorial smudge of scum, every whisper of usurping vermin.

I even dusted off my old Blaster Buggy, which I haven't driven in ages. What fun it was to lay waste to so much at such invigorating speeds. Here was Doom at his greatest!

I am a strong proponent of total war and no quarter. If you're going to break the back of an entire nation, you may as well do it right.

We even killed most of the livestock.

Of course, "heroes" soon forged a plan to alert Galactus that the Nullifier had been stolen.
Word of my theft was dispatched to the farthest reaches of the universe in search of the World Eater.
Once notified, Galactus would mentally recall the Nullifier to his worldship, Taa II, without any effort.
No matter. The threat of the Nullifier is perhaps as powerful as its use.
Postscript: I was glad to lose it. While it had been in my possession, I'd suffered from anxious dreams in which entire universes were annihilated and trillions of living things were extinguished.
My wounded spirit needed not such distractions.

THIS IS THE BLUE MARVEL, DR. ADAM BRASHEAR, BEGINNING DICTATION: FAILURE IS PERHAPS THE MOST VALUABLE ASPECT OF SCIENTIFIC INQUIRY. BUT...I HATE IT.
STILL, I WAS WRONG TO THINK I COULD KILL A BLACK HOLE ON MY OWN. ALTHOUGH TECHNICALLY, THAT WAS DOOM'S IDEA.
I WAS ALSO WRONG ABOUT THIS BEING A SCHWARZSCHILD BLACK HOLE. THE SINGULARITY...THIS EXOTIC OBJECT AT THE CENTER OF THE ANTLION... IS SOME KIND OF PORTAL.
AND SUPPOSEDLY, I WAS WRONG ABOUT...DOOM. THIS DR. OCTAVIUS HAS TOLD ME HOW BENEVOLENT DOOM IS AS THE LEADER OF HIS ALTERNATE EARTH.
HE AND OTTO HAVE HATCHED A PLAN TO TAKE DOWN THE ANTLION WITH NEGATIVE ENERGY EXPLOSIVES...SAME #$@% DIFFERENT STORY IF YOU ASK ME, BUT WE'LL SEE.
FRANKLY, I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S TRUE ANYMORE... SOMEHOW, WE CAN EVEN BREATHE OUT HERE.

I cannot remember when I first became interested in swordplay. Perhaps it was the works of Dumas.
I admire a good sword. I believe I possess over 50,000 swords, all displayed in my Sword Hall.
I used one of them to cut down Countess Katarina Karkov once and for all... though I already forget which sword it was. Perhaps a Kree blade? Or fourteenth century Saxony... No matter. Harpyia et mortuus est.
Although with her dying breaths, she told me that she was not the leader of the conspiracy against me. It was another, someone more troubling...

Ionela Novotny. I'd never heard of her, but she was the ringleader of this evil coup against me.
Under heavy interrogation she admitted her origins. Earlier in life, she had been a Symkarian spy embedded in Latveria.
Posing as a member of Doom's Children, she worked to undermine efforts to restore me to power. But she and her husband were exposed. He was killed. She barely escaped with her life.
But she left behind a baby girl. The resistance raised her as their own and named her Zora.
I know this child--now fully grown--as Victorious, my herald. I'd discovered that my one true ally... had Symkarian blood.

OTTO SPOKE OF HOW THE VICTOR HE KNOWS HAD BEEN PLAGUED WITH HORRIFIC DYSTOPIC VISIONS EVER SINCE THE APPEARANCE OF THE WORMHOLE ABOVE EARTH.

THIS DYSTOPIA WAS HELLISH--FULL OF WAR, STRIFE AND APOCALYPTIC COLLAPSE. HUMANITY WAS ON THE VERGE OF EXTINCTION. DOOM WAS STILL AN IRONCLAD TYRANT AND VILLAIN.

IT BECAME CLEAR TO ME THAT I WAS SUPPOSEDLY AN INHABITANT OF THIS DYSTOPIA. IT WAS I WHO WAS LIVING IN THE TWISTED AND DARK DIMENSION THAT WAS THE STUFF OF NIGHTMARES TO A PEACEFUL PLANET.

HAVE I BEEN WRONG ABOUT ALL OF EXISTENCE? HAVE I MERELY ACCEPTED A HABITUAL EVIL AND ASSUMED ANNIHILATION IN MY WORLD?

BUT AS I PONDERED THESE QUESTIONS, IT BECAME CLEAR THAT WE WERE NOT ALONE INSIDE THE ANTLION'S SINGULARITY...

I MET--AND MURDERED--MY MOTHER TODAY.

HER NAME WAS IONELA. I'D BELIEVED HER A HERO. SHE WAS, IN TRUTH, A SPY AND A CONSPIRATOR AGAINST THE STATE.

SYMKARIAN BLOOD FLOWS THROUGH MY VEINS. THE BLOOD OF MY ENEMIES.

I'M THE CHAMPION OF LATVERIA. BUT I'M NOT EVEN LATVERIAN.

NEEDING ASSURANCE OF MY LOYALTY, MY MASTER ORDERED ME TO EXECUTE A WOMAN I HAVE NEVER KNOWN BUT WHENCE I CAME.

I OBEYED HIM, AS I ALWAYS HAVE.

I FEEL HOLLOW NOW. WITHOUT ROOT.

WHAT HAVE I BEEN VICTORIOUS OVER?

HOW ELSE HAVE I BEEN WRONG?

THE BROOD WERE INNUMERABLE. HOW THEY BECAME TRAPPED INSIDE THE ANTLION--AND FROM WHERE--I HAVE NO IDEA.

OTTO'S DESIGNS TO COLLAPSE THE HOLE WERE DESTROYED AND OTTO HIMSELF WAS KILLED. HIS PLANS WERE BEYOND MY COMPREHENSION. AGAIN AND AGAIN, I'VE REACHED MY LIMITS.

I FOUGHT FOR HOURS. I SHOULD'VE DIED. AGAIN, NOTHING MAKES SENSE IN HERE.

IN THE END, ALL I COULD DO WAS ESCAPE THROUGH THE SINGULARITY UNDER THE CLOAK OF THE UNKNOWN.

BUT I ADMIT I HOPED. PERHAPS I WOULD NOW BE FREE OF MY "DYSTOPIA" AND FIND A PLACE THAT WAS NOT A LIVING FAILURE, A WRONG TURN PLANET AND UNIVERSE.

PERHAPS I WOULD FINALLY FIND ANSWERS...AND PEACE.

Symkaria is mine. Silver Sable quietly moved her double-dealing prime minister father into exile.

HUNGARY

The rest of the conspirators were lined up and shot. I installed Kristoff as governor of what is now the southern region of Latveria.

LATVERIA

But as our flags were raised across our new expanse... the thrill of war faded. In the quiet I again became haunted by what might be and the work that now lies ahead.

TRANSYLVANIA

Refugees flood the streets. Our hospitals and our food banks are depleted. We have already run out of shelter.

I wonder: How did this future Victor unify and pacify the entire world, when I am daunted by the conquest of one small nation?

CROATIA

SERBIA

I CHOOSE LATVERIA. I CHOOSE DOOM.

BUT COVERTLY I VISITED TAA II, WORLDSHIP OF GALACTUS, TO MAKE SURE THE NULLIFIER WAS RETURNED. A GOLD MAN OF SOME POWER AND APPARENT NOBLE REPUTE INFORMED ME THAT IT HAD.

I AM RELIEVED. IN SEARCHING MYSELF, I FIND THAT I DO NOT TRUST DOOM SO UNCONDITIONALLY AS I ONCE DID.

I THINK OF MY MOTHER. I THINK OF HER DEATH AT MY HANDS.

STILL, DOOM IS THE MASTER. I WILL SERVE AS HIS HERALD.

BUT I WILL ALSO PROTECT LATVERIA, EVEN IF ONE DAY I MUST PROTECT IT FROM HIM.

I have selfishly injured my herald's soul.
Zora is the closest thing to a daughter I may ever have.
But who wants a monster for a father? A father who orders his daughter to kill her mother? And now...Zora may never be the same.
And so here I record my new vow. I dare not say it aloud, as it still frightens me to even think it.
I will transform myself. I will evolve the creature of Victor von Doom and bring order and peace to this world.
It may not unfold as I have envisioned, but I will dedicate myself to saving all living things... and hereby refrain from evil.
I choose the good.
It's just a matter of when to tell the world of our imminent mutual salvation.

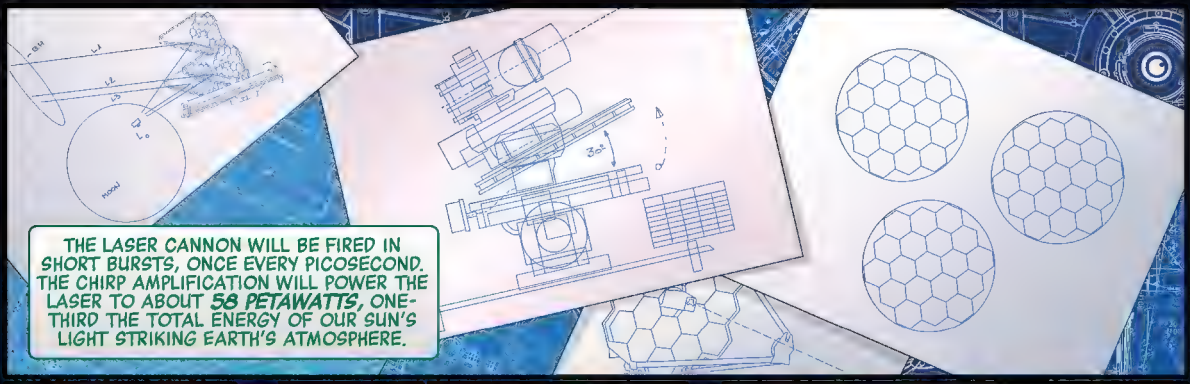
9
The Windmills of My Mind

"IN THE SPAN OF A FEW SHORT WEEKS, DOCTOR DOOM HAS BEEN CLEARED OF ALL CHARGES RELATED TO THE ANTLION STATION ATTACK THAT KILLED NEARLY THREE THOUSAND LAST MONTH.
"THE ATTACK WAS IN FACT PLANNED BY A SMALL CABAL OF CONSPIRATORS WORKING WITHIN THE SYMKARIAN GOVERNMENT TO DETHRONE DOOM.
"DOOM HIMSELF UNCOVERED THIS PLOT. ALL OF THOSE CONSPIRATORS HAVE BEEN ARRESTED OR EXECUTED BY LATVERIAN FORCES, AND SYMKARIA NOW LIVES UNDER DOOM'S RULE.
DOOM'S MOON MISSION
LIVE
"BUT TONIGHT...TONIGHT DOCTOR VICTOR VON DOOM MAY DO SOMETHING TRULY REMARKABLE.
"HE MAY INDEED SAVE ALL OF HUMANKIND.

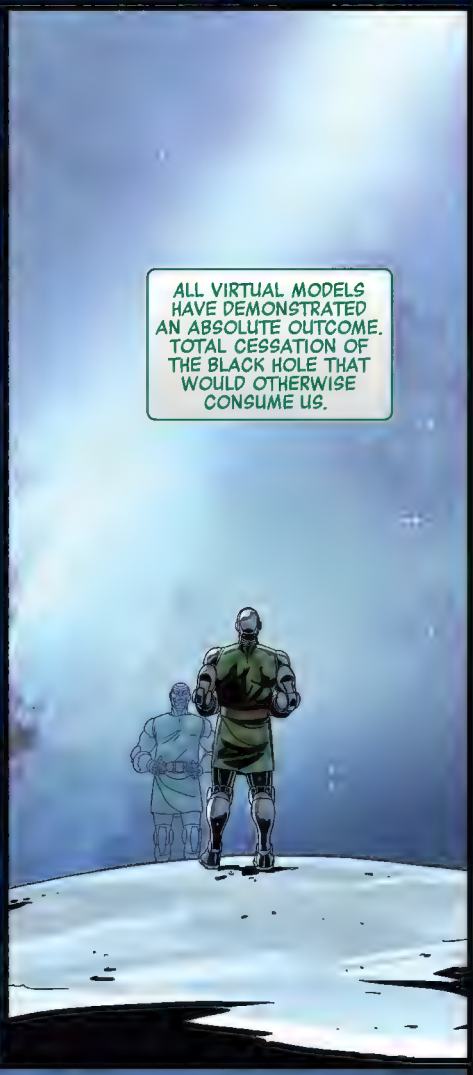
"AFTER THE BLUE MARVEL WAS LOST TO THE ANTLION BLACK HOLE LATE LAST WEEK, DESPAIR BEGAN TO SET IN AMONG EARTH'S SCIENTIFIC AND SUPER HERO COMMUNITIES.
"BUT AS OTHERS SCRAMBLED TO FIND SOLUTIONS AND STOP THE BLACK HOLE FROM DESTROYING THE PLANET, IT WAS DOOM WHO STEPPED FORWARD WITH THE MOST DETAILED AND CONVINCING PLAN.
"FROM WHAT WE'VE LEARNED, DOOM PLANS TO IMPLEMENT CPA LASER TECHNOLOGY AND A COMPLICATED MIRRORING SYSTEM OF HIS OWN DESIGN IN ORDER TO RAPIDLY DISSIPATE THE ANTLION WITH FOCUSED BLASTS OF NEGATIVE ENERGY.
"DOOM HAS REFUSED ANY HELP, CITING THE IMMENSE DANGER OF THE OPERATION. HE HAS INSTEAD VOLUNTEERED HIMSELF AND HAS ONLY THE ASSISTANCE OF NINE AUTOMATONS MADE IN HIS OWN LIKENESS--MACHINES COLLOQUIALLY REFERRED TO AS 'DOOMBOTS.'
"THE ANTLION'S CONTINUED VOLATILITY CREATES A TREACHEROUS AND DEADLY ENVIRONMENT ON THE MOON. IT WAS THESE CONDITIONS THAT LED TO THE COLLAPSE OF PREVIOUS RECOVERY MISSIONS AND THE DEATHS OF SEVERAL DISASTER AID WORKERS.
"SHOULD DOOM FAIL..."

...THE EARTH COULD BEGIN TO EXPERIENCE THE CATASTROPHIC EFFECTS OF THE ANTLION'S GRAVITATIONAL PULL IN AS SOON AS SIX DAYS' TIME. BACK TO YOU, SAANVI.
LIVE STREAM
...THANK YOU, STEVE. AND IT'S GOOD TO HAVE YOU BACK AND FEELING BETTER...
"REFUSED ANY HELP, CITING THE IMMENSE DANGER OF THE OPERATION." I WONDER IF VICTOR WROTE THAT LINE HIMSELF.
BUT, REED... IF IT WORKS, IT WORKS. RIGHT?
WE WANT IT TO BE A SUCCESS. FOR THE SAKE OF THE PLANET.
DO YOU KNOW HE BOUGHT AN HOUR OF PRIMETIME ON EVERY NETWORK FOR TOMORROW NIGHT?
MOST LIKELY FOR SOME KIND OF GRAND SPEECH ON HOW HE SAVED US ALL.
OF COURSE, CAP. IF VICTOR HAD ALLOWED ME, I'D BE RIGHT UP THERE ALONGSIDE HIM, WORKING WITH EVERY OUNCE OF WHAT I'VE GOT.
I KNOW YOU WOULD TOO. AND I KNOW BETTER THAN MOST HOW BRILLIANT THAT MAN IS. I ACTUALLY FEEL SAFE KNOWING IT'S HIM UP THERE.
BUT STILL...
...HE'S GOT TO BE LOVING THIS.

THE PLAN IS FOOLPROOF.
AND I SPEAK NOT ONLY OF MY RESCUE OF THE PLANET FROM THE CLUTCHES OF THIS DISASTER.
I SPEAK OF MY PLAN TO TELL THE WORLD THAT I AM SHEDDING MY VILLAINY. THAT THIS HEROIC ACT WILL BE THE FIRST OF MANY HEROIC ACTS.
I WILL BE THEIR HERO. I WILL NO LONGER BE SEEN AS THEIR TORMENTOR.
I WILL ATONE. AND THEN I WILL BE LOVED.
AND THEN I WILL RULE ALL OF EARTH WITH GREAT HUMILITY.
WITH HUMILITY THE LIKES OF WHICH THE WORLD HAS *NEVER* SEEN.


THE LASER CANNON WILL BE FIRED IN SHORT BURSTS, ONCE EVERY PICOSECOND. THE CHIRP AMPLIFICATION WILL POWER THE LASER TO ABOUT 58 PETAWATTS, ONE-THIRD THE TOTAL ENERGY OF OUR SUN'S LIGHT STRIKING EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE.

THE MIRROR CAROUSEL WILL BE PLACED INTO A FIXED POSITION WITHIN THE MOON'S ORBIT.
ONCE IT BEGINS TO SPIN AND THE LASER IMPACTS IT, THE BEAM WILL BE BROKEN DOWN INTO ITS PARTS, WITH POSITIVE PULSES DISPERSING INTO SPACE AND NEGATIVE PULSES STRIKING RIGHT INTO THE ANTLION'S HEART.


ALL VIRTUAL MODELS HAVE DEMONSTRATED AN ABSOLUTE OUTCOME. TOTAL CESSATION OF THE BLACK HOLE THAT WOULD OTHERWISE CONSUME US.

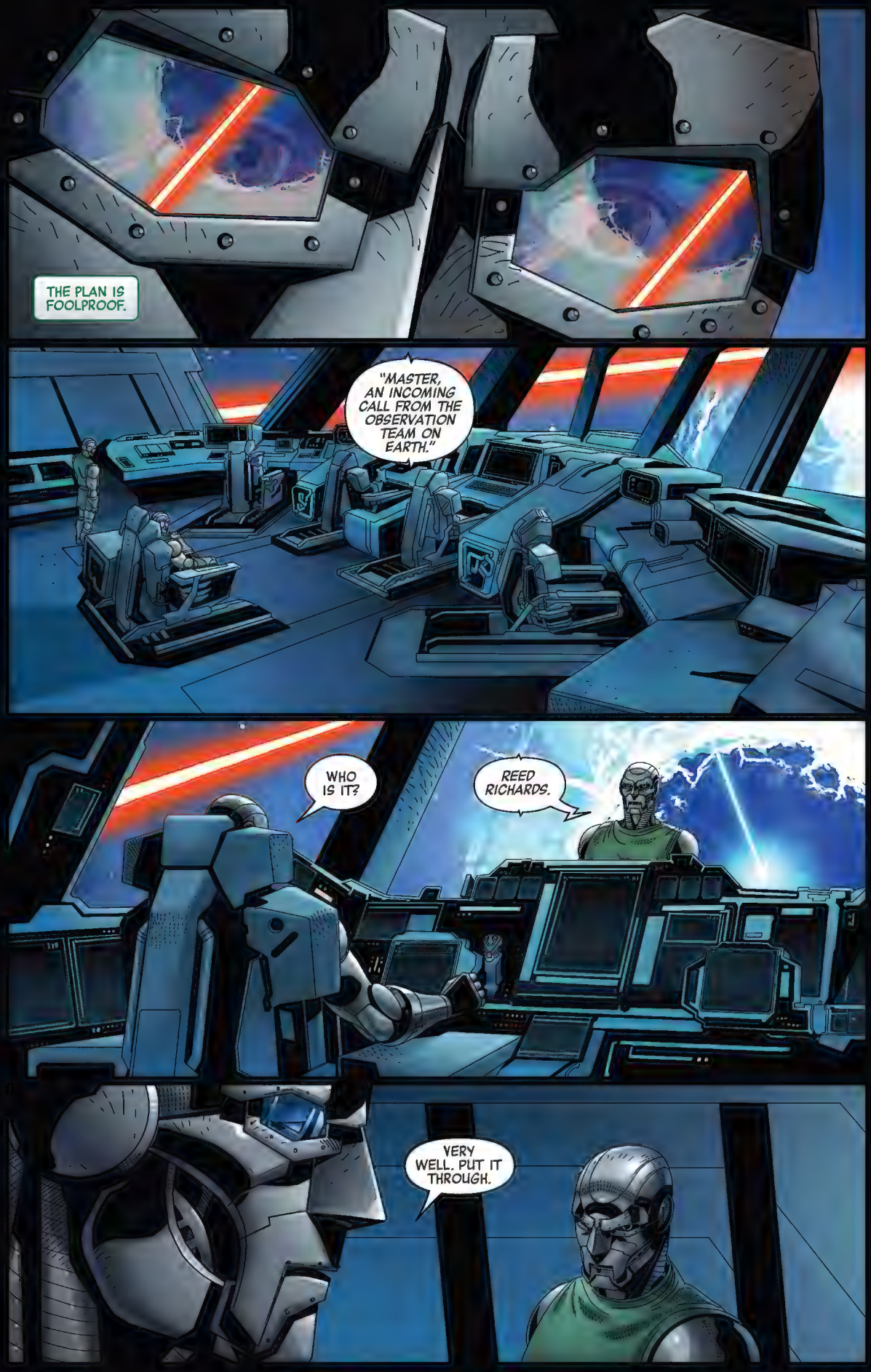
TOTAL. CESSATION.
THE DESIGN--A FIRST IN TERMS OF MY NEW ALTRUISM--IS ELEGANT AND BEAUTIFUL.

ONCE THIS PROBLEM IS RESOLVED, I'VE SCHEDULED TIME TO APPEAR ON LIVE TELEVISION AND DETAIL MY SURRENDER AND SUGGESTED IMPRISONMENT.
I'M STILL WRITING AND REVISING MY SPEECH, BUT IN ITS ESSENCE I WILL ANNOUNCE AN END TO MY RULE OF LATVERIA. I WILL MAKE SUGGESTIONS AS TO THE LOCATION WHERE I SERVE MY SENTENCE.
I HAVE CHOSEN THREE CANDIDATES:
VHF
UHF
IRON GATE FORTRESS, SIBERIA.
WITH SOME UPGRADES IN PROPER INTERIOR HEATING, I SHOULD BE ABLE TO ENDURE SEVERAL YEARS INSIDE WHILE COMFORTABLY REFLECTING ON MY LIFE.
ISLE OF CROWS, CASPIAN SEA.
ONCE USED TO HOUSE HUMAN PRISONERS OF ATLANTIS. CURRENTLY UNOCCUPIED, TEMPERATE CLIMATE.
STATION MUTE, THE NEGATIVE ZONE.
THIS ONE IS A BIT MASOCHISTIC BUT IF THE WORLD FEELS I AM IN NEED OF TRULY SPARTAN CONFINEMENT, I COULD UNDERGO PUNITIVE SUSPENDED ANIMATION WITHIN THIS CONSCIOUSNESS VAULT. TIME *WOULD* PASS RATHER QUICKLY THERE.

BEFORE BEING INTERNED, I WILL PUBLICLY TRANSFER REIGN OF LATVERIA TO VICTORIOUS. HER SYMKARIAN BLOOD WOULD BE KEPT SECRET.
IT'S THE LEAST I CAN DO, GIVEN WHAT I'VE ASKED OF HER.
BUT I AM ALMOST CERTAIN THAT THIS WOULD STILL NOT MAKE UP FOR ORDERING HER TO MURDER HER INSURGENT MOTHER.*
*LAST ISSUE. --TOM B.
I'M AFRAID I'VE PERMANENTLY FRACTURED OUR BOND.
AT TIMES, I REALIZE...
...THERE IS SO MUCH I'VE DONE THAT I CANNOT UNDO.

FIRE.
WWWWWWWOOOOOOOMM

BUT THIS DARKNESS WILL BE DECIMATED, I FORESWEAR.
BWEEOOMMHHHHHMMMMMMMMMM


THE PLAN IS FOOLPROOF.
"MASTER, AN INCOMING CALL FROM THE OBSERVATION TEAM ON EARTH."
WHO IS IT?
REED RICHARDS.
VERY WELL. PUT IT THROUGH.

VICTOR.
WHAT DO YOU WANT? I'M QUITE BUSY UP HERE CORRECTING YOUR MISTAKES.
TO BE FAIR, IT WAS THE UNPROVOKED MISSILE ATTACK THAT CAUSED THE BLACK HOLE TO DESTABILIZE.
A FORTUITOUS OCCURRENCE. ONE THAT KICKS DIRT OVER YOUR LETHAL MISCALCULATIONS.
WHATEVER YOU NEED TO BELIEVE. REGARDLESS...
I JUST WANTED TO SAY GOOD LUCK. EVERYTHING LOOKS GOOD HERE ON OUR END.
I DON'T NEED YOUR CONCERN.
I'M NOT CONCERNED.
THEN WHY ARE YOU EVEN CONTACTING ME?

I TOLD YOU. TO WISH YOU LUCK.
WHY DO I NEED LUCK OR CHILDISH WISHES WHEN NOTHING HAS BEEN LEFT TO CHANCE?
ALL I MEANT IS THAT I THINK THIS IS GOING TO BE SUCCESSFUL.
I'M CERTAIN IT WILL BE.
GOOD.
AREN'T YOU CERTAIN?
WHY WOULDN'T I BE? I KNOW IT'S EXCELLENT WORK.
I KNOW THAT IT'S A PERFECT SOLUTION.
YES.

"YES" WHAT?
YES, I KNOW YOU KNOW THAT.
TELL ME WHAT I KNOW, REED.
THAT YOU'RE CERTAIN YOUR WORK IS PERFECT.
BUT YOU DON'T THINK IT'S PERFECT.
I TOLD YOU I BELIEVE IT IS.
WHEN DID YOU SAY THAT? YOU SAID NO SUCH THING. AND BELIEVING IS DIFFERENT THAN KNOWING.
LOOK, I'M NOT GOING TO ARGUE SEMANTICS WITH YOU OVER INTERSPACE COMMUNICATION WHEN THE FATE OF THE WORLD IS AT STAKE.
OF COURSE, BECAUSE IT IS AN ARGUMENT YOU WOULD LOSE!

THIS CONVERSATION IS OVER NOW.
AS IF YOU GET TO DECIDE!
GOOD LUCK, VICTOR.
RRRRRRYYEAAAA!
KRAKOOO

WHY WOULD HE EVEN BOTHER TO HAIL ME DURING THIS MISSION IF HE HAS NOTHING TO CONTRIBUTE?
PERHAPS HE SECRETLY HAS DOUBTS.
NO. NO, HE'S MERELY JEALOUS.
HE FEELS EMBARRASSED BECAUSE OF HIS OWN FAILURES.
HE SEEKS CREDIT FOR YOUR SOLUTION.
YES, HE CONTACTS YOU SO IT CAN APPEAR THAT HE'S COORDINATING WITH YOU.
EVEN THOUGH THE PLAN IS MINE ALONE!
THE DISASTER IS HIS FAULT.
HE WANTS TO SAVE SOME SHRED OF HIS REPUTATION.
YES, BY RIDING MY COATTAILS.
LET HIM INSTEAD LIVE ON IN DISGRACE. I HAVE MORE IMPORTANT THINGS TO DO.
YES, YOU MUST MORALLY TRANSFORM.
EXACTLY, THAT IS THE LARGER GOAL.
FIXING RICHARDS' ERROR IS MERELY A MEANS TO AN END.
CORRECT. EVERYTHING WE ARE ALL SAYING IS CORRECT.

OR...MAYBE RICHARDS KNOWS SOMETHING...
PERHAPS HE KNOWS OF A FLAW.
HE SOMEHOW KNOWS THIS IS GOING TO FAIL.
HE'D RATHER LET THAT HAPPEN THAN LET DOOM BECOME A HERO.
THERE IS TIME TO REEXAMINE THE CONFIGURATION OF THE DEVICE.
IF HE SPOTTED SOMETHING, IT WILL BE EASY TO LOCATE. SCOUR THE LASER! INSPECT THE MIRRORS!

ALL READOUTS ARE STABLE.
NO PARTICLE DISTORTION IN THE BEAM.
NO UNEXPECTED POWER FLUCTUATIONS IN THE CIRCUITRY.
THE RAW DATA IS ON TARGET WITH THE ESTIMATED TERMINUS POINT.
FOUR THOUSAND REVOLUTIONS PER MINUTE EXACTLY, DOWN TO ONE TEN-THOUSANDTH OF A SECOND.
BALANCED OUTPUT OF NEGATIVE ENERGY PARTICLES.
ONE HUNDRED PERCENT REFRACTION. NO DISTORTION.
COMPLETE DISPERSAL OF POSITIVE BURSTS.
HM.
NO, SOMETHING IS OFF. INCREASE THE PULSE COUNT BY FIFTEEN PERCENT. LESSEN MIRROR REVOLUTIONS BY A POWER OF NINE.

RECALCULATING REVOLUTIONS...
UPPING CHIRPS...
WAIT, NO, STRIKE THAT. THAT'S WRONG.
LOCK THE PULSES IN AT THE ORIGINAL RATE. AMPLIFY PULSE POWER BY...
...200 PERCENT. CONTINUE TO REDUCE MIRROR REVOLUTIONS, BUT BY A POWER OF SIXTEEN.
TOO MUCH NEGATIVE ENERGY TOO FAST COULD CAUSE THE ANTLION TO DISSIPATE TOO QUICKLY.
NO, THE REDUCTION OF MIRROR REVOLUTIONS WILL COUNTERACT THE POWER INCREASE AND PROVIDE A BETTER EQUALIZED DISPERSAL OF THE BLACK HOLE'S MASS--
BUT IF THE MASS COLLAPSES BEFORE THE ESTIMATED TIME, IT COULD BECOME CRITICAL--
SHUT UP, DAMN YOU.
ZZRAFF

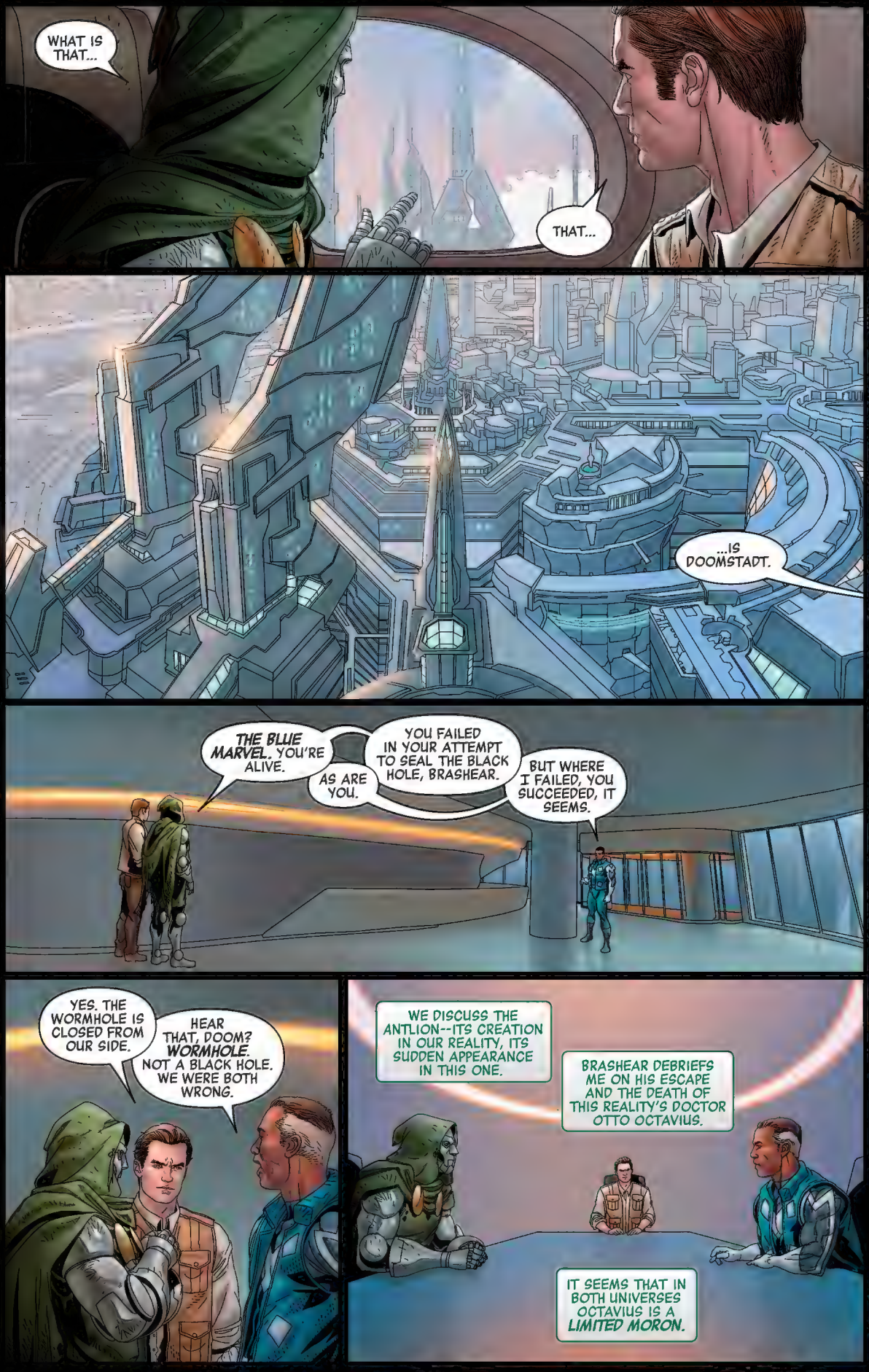
WHAT THE HELL IS VICTOR DOING? THE ANTLION'S ANGULAR VELOCITY IS WAY OFF.
IT'S SHRINKING, ISN'T IT? IT'S SMALLER BY TWO-THIRDS.
IT'S MUCH TOO FAST...
NO... IT'S TOO FAST...
UP MIRROR REVOLUTIONS. NOW!
MY ORIGINAL PLAN WAS FLAWLESS. NOW IT'S BEEN RUINED... THIS WAS RICHARDS' PLAN ALL ALONG, TO WORM INTO MY HEAD AND CORRUPT MY CONVICTION...

I WAS READY TO SAVE THE WORLD AND BECOME ITS HERO! IT WOULD HAVE WORKED!
BUT RICHARDS WOULD NEVER LET THAT HAPPEN!
AND NOW, BECAUSE OF HIM--
BOOM

10
Bedford Falls

SUNNY DAY. EARTH.
LAST I REMEMBER, I WAS ON THE MOON...
AN EXPLOSION... RICHARDS' DOING.
FLOCK OF BEE-EATERS. BEAUTIFUL BIRDS... MAJESTIC.
LATVERIA IS HOME TO THOUSANDS OF THEM...I'M... I'M NOT FAR FROM HOME.
BUT WAIT...
...NOT JUST BIRDS.
HRMRK
ARE YOU IN NEED OF MEDICAL ASSISTANCE?
ARE YOU HERE TO THREATEN US?
NO.
YOU'RE HIM... YOU'RE...
...ME.

WE'VE BUILT SOMETHING VERY SPECIAL HERE. I NEED ASSURANCES THAT YOU'RE NOT HERE TO DISRUPT IT.
I AM NOT. I'VE SEEN WHAT YOU'VE BUILT.
IF ANYTHING...
...I WANT TO LEARN.
THIS...
THIS WE CAN DO.
I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT.


WHAT IS THAT...
THAT...
...IS DOOMSTADT.
THE BLUE MARVEL. YOU'RE ALIVE.
AS ARE YOU.
YOU FAILED IN YOUR ATTEMPT TO SEAL THE BLACK HOLE, BRASHEAR.
BUT WHERE I FAILED, YOU SUCCEEDED, IT SEEMS.
YES. THE WORMHOLE IS CLOSED FROM OUR SIDE.
HEAR THAT, DOOM? WORMHOLE. NOT A BLACK HOLE. WE WERE BOTH WRONG.
WE DISCUSS THE ANTLION--ITS CREATION IN OUR REALITY, ITS SUDDEN APPEARANCE IN THIS ONE.
BRASHEAR DEBRIEFS ME ON HIS ESCAPE AND THE DEATH OF THIS REALITY'S DOCTOR OTTO OCTAVIUS.
IT SEEMS THAT IN BOTH UNIVERSES OCTAVIUS IS A LIMITED MORON.

WE ARRIVE AT A THEORY. PERHAPS THE ANTLION ACTED AS A TYPE OF MEMBRANE, WHICH LED TO QUANTUM ENTANGLEMENT BETWEEN OUR RESPECTIVE REALITIES.
THIS WOULD EXPLAIN MY VISIONS OF A BETTER WORLD AND HIS HORRIFIC GLIMPSES INTO OURS.
AS WE SPEAK, IT OCCURS TO ME. OUR UNIVERSE IS YOUR DARK MIRROR. WE ARE YOUR SHADOW REALM, WRETCHED AND EVIL.
WE ARE MINIONS OF YOUR HELL.
YOU ARE THE DREAM.
I AM THE NIGHTMARE.
BUT IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE THAT WAY.
DR. BRASHEAR IS RIGHT. YOUR WORLD CAN STILL BE SAVED.

HOW DID YOU ACCOMPLISH ALL THIS? THE GULF BETWEEN US SEEMS... INFINITE.
I COULD REGALE YOU FOR HOURS WITH ALL OUR TECHNOLOGICAL ACHIEVEMENTS AND POLITICAL BREAKTHROUGHS--
I WOULDN'T MIND THAT.
BUT THERE IS SOMETHING MORE IMPORTANT FOR YOU TO SEE.
THE VISIONS OF YOUR LIFE... HAVE SHOWED ME THE ERRORS OF MINE.
GOOD. ADMITTING YOU'RE WRONG IS THE FIRST STEP.
...YES. I SUPPOSE YOU'RE RIGHT.
I AM WRONG.
THAT MUST HAVE BEEN VERY DIFFICULT TO SAY.
YOU HAVE NO IDEA.
ACTUALLY... I DO.

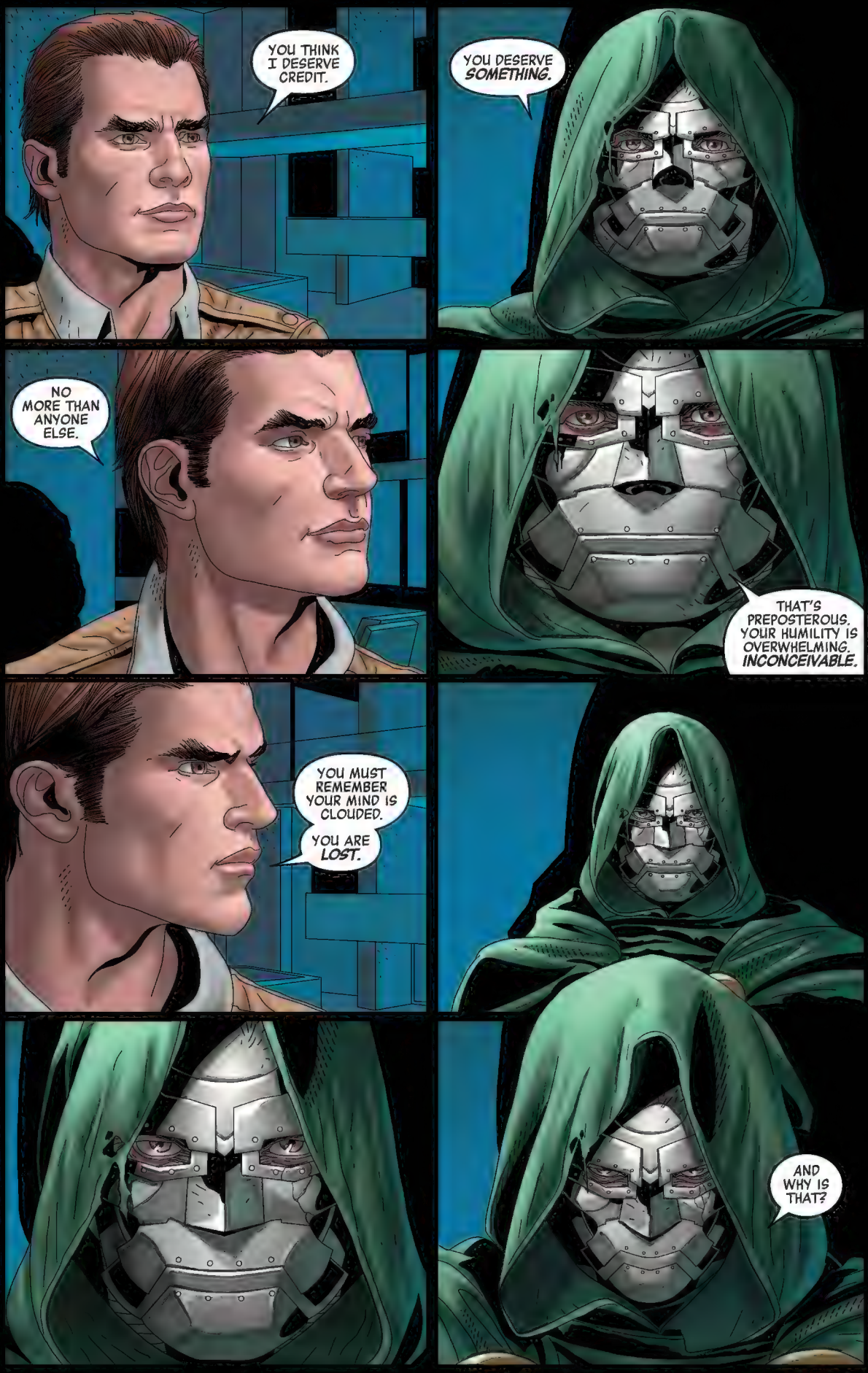
MINUTES LATER.
WHAT IS THIS?*
THIS IS MY RESIDENCE.
WHAT OF OUR CASTLE?
THERE WAS NO USE FOR IT.
WE TORE IT DOWN AND REPLACED IT WITH FUSION GENERATORS.
YOU TORE DOWN OUR BIRTHRIGHT? TO LIVE IN THIS HOVEL? WHEN YOU RULE THE WORLD?
I DON'T RULE THE WORLD, VICTOR.
I MERELY HELP GUIDE IT.
COME. MEET MY FAMILY.
*ALL DIALOGUE IN LATVERIAN.

THIS IS A BAD IDEA, VICTOR.
FRUZSINA, PLEASE, THINK OF WHAT'S AT STAKE.
NOW WE CAN SAVE TWO WORLDS INSTEAD OF ONE.
YOU SEE YOUR AMBITION REMAINS A CONSTANT IN BOTH REALITIES.
WHERE ARE THE CHILDREN?
VICTOR, I DON'T THINK--
FATHER!
PAPA!
COSTIN! DORU! MY BOYS, MY BOYS...
YOU SEE, VICTOR? THIS IS TRUE POWER.

HE'S FRIGHTENING...
DON'T WORRY. THIS MAN IS ON HIS WAY TO HEALING.
THAT'S... WEREN'T YOU ONCE LIKE HIM...? I'VE HEARD OLD STORIES...
YES. I WAS ONCE TORTURED AND BROKEN.
FILLED WITH GREED, HATE AND DELUSION...
I AM NOT BROKEN!
DON'T BE ASHAMED.
THIS WAS THE HARDEST PART FOR ME TOO.

I AM NOT WITHOUT ACCOMPLISHMENT. MY LATVERIA IS RUN WELL. MY PEOPLE WANT FOR NOTHING.
THE TROUBLE IS YOU SEE IT ALL AS A REFLECTION OF YOURSELF.
YOU HAVE TO LET THAT GO.
ONCE YOU DO...SO MUCH IS POSSIBLE.
WHAT WE'RE DOING HERE IS NOT JUST LIMITED TO EARTH.
"YOU SHOULD SEE FOR YOURSELF."
ALLIANCE
UNITY ACROSS THE STARS

KREE. SKRULL. BADOON. SHI'AR. WE ALL WORK CLOSELY TOGETHER NOW, SHARING IDEAS, MUTUAL RESPECT AND STRONG PACTS.
AND COLLECTED HERE AS PART OF MUTUAL DISARMAMENT, SOME OF THE MOST DESTRUCTIVE WEAPONS THAT HAVE TORMENTED CIVILIZATIONS ACROSS THE UNIVERSE FOR EONS.
...EXTRAORDINARY...
I'M SURE IT'S STRANGE TO SEE ALL THESE THINGS IN ONE PLACE.
PERHAPS EVEN TEMPTING.
FRANKLY...I AM TOO TIRED TO BE TEMPTED.
YOU'VE DONE ALL THIS ON YOUR OWN?
HARDLY. THE COUNCIL OF MINDS AND HEARTS ON THIS PLANET--AND OTHERS--IS VAST. IT TAKES ALL OF US.
BUT IT STARTED WITH YOU.


YOU THINK I DESERVE CREDIT.
YOU DESERVE *SOMETHING.*
NO MORE THAN ANYONE ELSE.
THAT'S PREPOSTEROUS. YOUR HUMILITY IS OVERWHELMING. *INCONCEIVABLE.*
YOU MUST REMEMBER YOUR MIND IS CLOUDED.
YOU ARE *LOST.*
AND WHY IS THAT?

YOU KNOW AS WELL AS I DO THAT YOU COULD EASILY REPAIR YOUR FACE NOW, EVEN ON YOUR OWN STRIFE-RIDDEN AND LESS ADVANCED WORLD.
HOW DARE YOU--
BUT YOU CHOOSE TO KEEP IT AS IT IS. WHY?
TO SHOW HOW HUMANITY HAS WRONGED YOU, HOW IT'S BETRAYED YOU.
BUT ONE DAY, I PROMISE YOU...THAT ANGER WILL SOFTEN.
IT'S SOFTENING ALREADY. THAT'S GOOD.
THAT MEANS SOON YOU'LL BE READY TO FORGIVE.
FORGIVE WHOM?
EVERYONE. BUT MOST IMPORTANTLY...

RICHARDS.
YOU SEE?
YOU ALREADY KNOW THE ANSWER IN YOUR OWN HEART.
WITHOUT HIM, YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO DO ANYTHING YOU SEE AROUND YOU.
SO YOU'RE FRIENDS NOW.
OF COURSE. HE'S MY OLDEST AND STRONGEST.
I KNOW IT SOUNDS REPUGNANT NOW.
BUT EVERYTHING ABOUT YOU IS A DENIAL OF A GIANT WOUND WITHIN YOUR SOUL.
YOUR TYRANNY. YOUR LUST FOR POWER. YOUR FACE.
EVEN YOUR RIDICULOUS ARMOR.
"RIDICULOUS."

THINK ABOUT IT FOR ONE MOMENT, VICTOR. IT'S ALL A FARCE.
A DESPERATE AND HONESTLY PATHETIC ATTEMPT TO CONCEAL YOUR ENDLESS FEAR.
IT CURRENTLY PERMEATES EVERY FIBER OF YOUR EXISTENCE, ALL THE WAY DOWN TO THE SILLY FINGER GUNS IN YOUR METAL GAUNTLET HAND.
IT'S ALL LUDICROUS. YOUR ENTIRE MODE OF BEING IS LUDICROUS.
YOU KNOW I'M RIGHT.

COME NOW, VICTOR--
YOU KNOW AS WELL AS I THAT THREATS AND VIOLENCE ONLY--
BOOM
NO... OH MY GOD...
PSSSSKCHHHKHH
DOOM, PLEASE.
DON'T.
CLIK

ALL OF IT.

I *ANNIHILATE* ALL OF IT. IN ONE INSTANT.

THIS ENTIRE UNIVERSE.

THIS *HOAX* OF AN EXISTENCE.

THIS REPULSIVE AND INDULGENT SELF-PORTRAIT OF WEAKNESS.

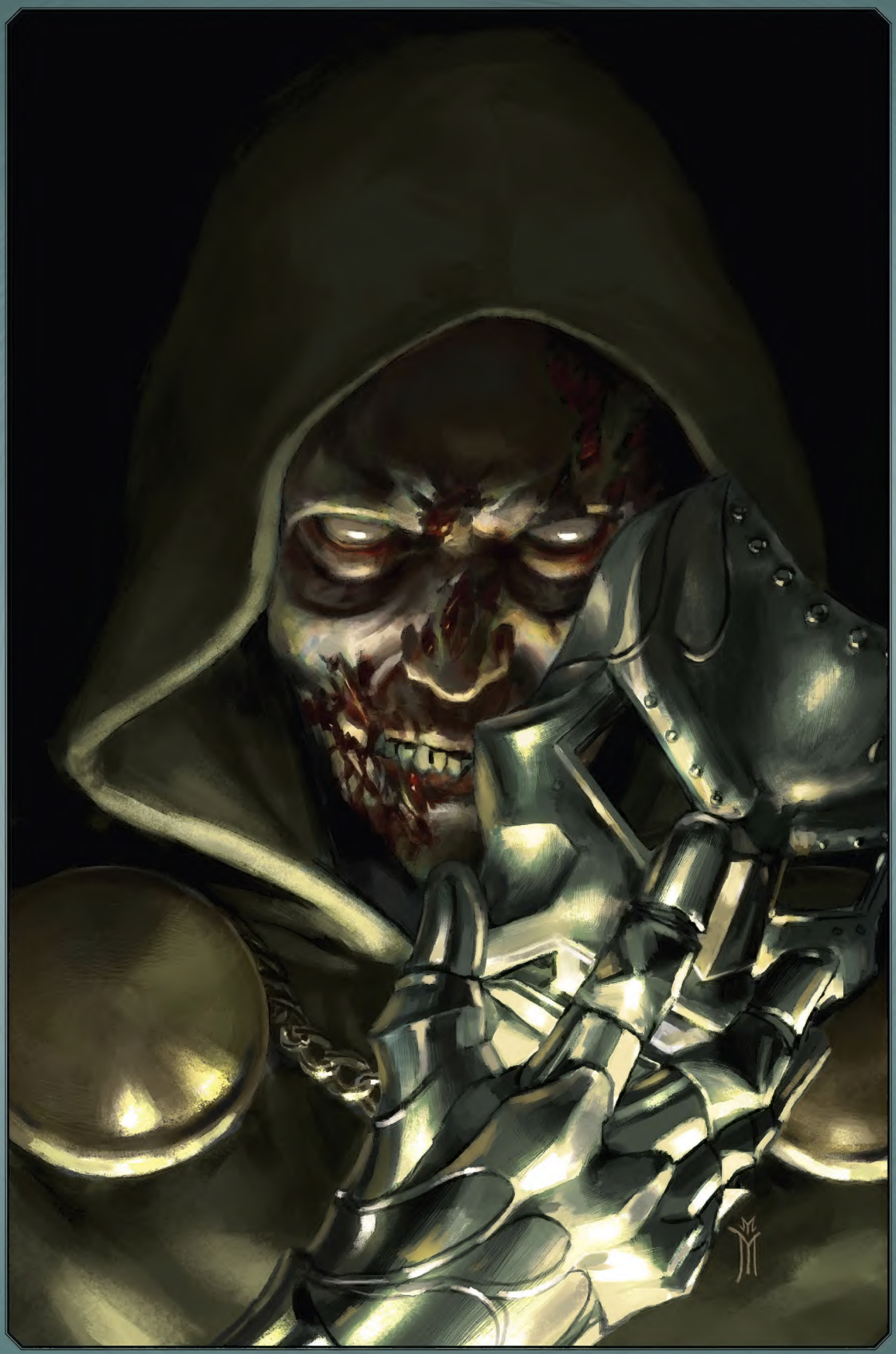
I HAVE *ZERO* PITY FOR THE NEARLY INFINITE SENTIENT BEINGS WITHIN IT AS I EXTINGUISH THEM.

IN THIS MOMENT... I BECOME DEATH'S GREATEST SERVANT.

MY MIND IS SO PRECISELY FOCUSED THAT I'M ABLE TO RETURN MYSELF TO MY TRUE REALITY WITH EASE.
I RETURN BRASHEAR AS WELL, BUT I LEAVE HIM SOMEWHERE IN THE MIDDLE OF A REMOTE OCEAN.
KKR-SPLSSHHH
THIS IS THE LAST ACT OF MERCY I WILL EVER SHOW IN MY LIFE.
HOW COULD YOU... YOU DEVIL...YOU WRONGHEADED, SAD AND WORTHLESS EVIL BASTARD...
GUARD.

YES, OUR MASTER.
THERE IS A PRISONER IN CUSTODY OF THE STATE.
A JOURNALIST. GREGOR MARKOVICH.
HAVE HIM EXECUTED WITHIN THE HOUR.
IT WILL BE DONE, OUR MASTER.
BWZEOWF

AH. DOOM.
I SEE THAT YOU ARE WELL AND SEATED ATOP YOUR THRONE.
I THUSLY ASSUME YOU'RE IN GOOD SPIRITS.
THERE IS NO GOOD IN ME, KANG.
THERE NEVER WAS.
AND THERE NEVER SHALL BE.
IN SAECULA SAECULORUM.
AMEN.
END.



Miguel Mercado

7 Marvel Zombies Variant

Declan Shalvey
9 Phoenix Variant

"Expertly illustrated by Larroca's art. His work breathes life into these tense scenes and gives them an almost cinematic quality." – AIPT

ETERNAL REIGN!

AFTER UNCOVERING THE SYMKARIAN PLOT AGAINST HIM, Doctor Doom seeks an "insurance policy" that will ensure his rule over Latveria – forever! But before waging a one-man war on those who usurped his throne, he must embark on a deadly covert mission to find a secret and powerful device – with unlikely ally Kang the Conqueror! Meanwhile, the black hole on the moon is growing critical, and Doom's brilliant mind may be the only thing that can stop a catastrophe that will wreak havoc through the entire solar system. But when disaster strikes, he finds himself on an Earth he recognizes only from dreams and visions – one where a very different Victor Von Doom is the benevolent savior and leader of humanity. Will Doom heed the lessons of this better world in order to save his own?

COLLECTING ***DOCTOR DOOM #6-10*** –
BY CHRISTOPHER CANTWELL, SALVADOR LARROCA AND GURU-eFX.

MARVEL